

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

This Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) is being prepared for the Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment Project. The signed conclusion at the end of this worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal analysis process and does not constitute an appealable decision; however, it constitutes an administrative record to be provided as evidence in protest, appeals and legal procedures.

A. BLM Office: Cedar City Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No. DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0052-DNA

Proposed Action Title/Type: Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment Project

Location of Proposed Action:

The Project Area is located approximately 20 miles north of Cedar City, Utah in Iron County (See Attachment 1).

Description of the Proposed Action:

The Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment (approximately 3,769 acres) would remove pinyon pine and juniper from the vegetative community on BLM managed lands within the Adams Well, Jackrabbit and Long Hollow Sheep allotments. The project area is located within the Pinyon Pine and Juniper Woodland Treatment Area, Sagebrush Steppe and the Perennial Grassland Treatment Area that was identified in the Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project EA (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013). The Long Hollow Vegetation treatment project would include bull-hog, lop and scatter and herbicide/harrow/chaining treatments. The bull hog project area is dominated by pinyon pine and juniper (Class II and III) while the lop and scatter portion of the project area has scattered pinyon pine and juniper present within the community (Class I and II). The understory within the Bull Hog Project Area is variable and consists of a limited amount of Wyoming big sagebrush and a limited perennial grass and forb component. The understory within the Lop and Scatter Project Area consists of a diverse perennial grass, forb and shrub component. The herbicide/harrow/chaining Project Area is located within existing treatments that were completed for Utah prairie dogs. The understory within these areas is not consistent with Utah prairie dog habitat needs.

It is expected that the project implementation timeframe would occur over a period of 2-3 years based on funding availability.

A. Pinyon Pine and Juniper Woodland Treatment Area

The Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project EA identified Desired Future Condition within the Pinyon Pine and Juniper Woodland Treatment Area (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Pg. 22). As described in the EA, appropriate mechanical tools would be used to thin or remove dense stands of pinyon pine and juniper to improve forest health and pine nut production; increase the presence of desirable grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Seed mixes were identified to diversify the grass, forb, and shrub component. The Bull Hog treatment method is expected to meet the goals that were identified in the Pinyon Pine and Juniper Woodland Treatment Area. It has been determined through the collection of vegetative monitoring data and Ecological Site Description (ESD) verification that pinyon pine and juniper are excessive within this area and the understory of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs is limited within portions of the project area. Wyoming big sagebrush is present throughout the vegetation treatment area. Therefore, it is expected that if the Bull Hog treatment is completed between September-December that on site Wyoming big sagebrush would be seeded. This would improve the sagebrush age class and diversity within the area while also removing pinyon pine and juniper from an area where the understory should be dominated by perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs. If these areas are treated in the short-term, it is expected that the inputs (i.e. seeding) to achieve the goals identified under the Pinyon Pine and Juniper Treatment Area would be lower than if the condition of the vegetative community continues to decline and all of the perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs are lost. There are also areas within the treatment area where the understory of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs is limited to non-existent. These areas would require more inputs (i.e. seeding) because of the deficiencies in the herbaceous understory.

In areas where a bull hog is used, the BLM would leave a tree component that is more characteristic of the Great Basin (i.e. stringers along washes). In addition, older growth pinyon pine and juniper would be left on site. It would be desirable to leave islands and travel corridors interspersed with open areas to create a mosaic pattern across the landscape. In addition, islands of pinyon pine and juniper would be preserved as a result of wildlife surveys, archaeological site avoidance, etc, which would retain wildlife values and provide important hiding cover for mule deer as well as retaining habitat for migratory bird species. The infilling of expansion pinyon-juniper between these stands, puts these mature and old-growth stands at greater risk of loss in wildfire events by providing contiguous fuels both horizontally and vertically. Wildfire would leave islands and drainages unburned, while other areas would be entirely burned; therefore, through project design, natural fire patterns would be mimicked. Aerial Seeding/Broadcast Seeding would be utilized where perennial vegetation is scarce, absent or where it has been determined that a more diverse vegetative component is required.

B. Sagebrush Steppe Treatment (Greater Sage Grouse) Area

The Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project EA identified Desired Future Condition within the Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Area (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Pg. 20 - 22).

As described in the EA, the lop and scatter treatment method would be utilized in treatment areas that consist of pinyon pine and juniper (or other tree species) and in areas that consist of shrubs. The lop and scatter method would allow for cut material to be left on site, which is expected to provide the site with moisture retention capabilities, protect the soil while reducing soil movement and provide microsites for perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs. The lop and scatter method would also allow for nutrient cycling as the material breaks down over time. The Lop and Scatter Treatment Method would provide an effective means for controlling the impacts to the treated areas. Due to the nature of the method, the majority of work would occur on foot. This effort would be expected to minimize the impacts to soil and vegetation within the Project Area. Aerial Seeding/Broadcast Seeding would be utilized where perennial vegetation is scarce, absent or where it has been determined that a more diverse vegetative component is required.

C. Perennial Grassland Treatments (Utah Prairie Dog and Sage Grouse Brood Rearing) Area

The Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project EA identified Desired Future Condition within the Perennial Grassland Treatment Area (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Pg. 17- 20).

As described in the EA, the herbicide/harrow/chaining treatment method would be utilized in areas to be managed as perennial grassland treatments. These treatments would occur in existing vegetation treatments that were identified for Utah prairie dog recovery and translocation activities. Perennial grassland treatments would be managed such that 40-60% of acres would be managed for a perennial grassland treatment for Utah prairie dog habitat with a minimum contiguous patch size of 250 - 300 acres. The treatments within this area would exhibit a mosaic of diverse perennial grasses and forbs interspersed with Wyoming big sagebrush islands across the landscape mimicking natural disturbance similar to pre-European settlement. There would be increased vigor of grasses and forbs as indicated by plants with annual growth and seed production in balance with precipitation levels. Aerial Seeding/Broadcast Seeding would be utilized where perennial vegetation is scarce, absent or where it has been determined that a more diverse vegetative component is required.

Summary

Design Features (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Pg. 23 - 32) were identified to minimize impacts to resources within the project area. The design features would be adhered to during project implementation. In addition, Design Features that are recommended through the clearances that were identified in the Sigurd to Red Butte

Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project EA would be brought forward and adhered to (i.e. raptor nest buffer).

Clearances and monitoring as identified in the Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project including wildlife, archaeology, cadastral, noxious weeds, vegetation, etc, have been completed within the project area.

A native seed mix would be identified for the project area utilizing the appropriate Ecological Site Description (Refer to Attached Seed Mix). If supplies of native seed that are identified in the attached seed mix are limited, the use of seed that would provide the greatest benefit for Greater Sage Grouse would be utilized (Refer to Appendix 4 – DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013).

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The Proposed Action conforms to the Cedar Beaver Garfield Antimony Resource Management Plan (1986), which was amended by the Utah Greater Sage-Grouse Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (Utah GRSG ARMPA) in September, 2015. It has been determined that the action is in conformance with the ARMPA.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

- Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) - August 2013
- Adams Well Allotment Grazing Permit Renewal (EA-040-06-42) – July 2011
- Adams Well Allotment Vegetation Monitoring Report – January 2015
- Adams Well Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment Summary – January 2015

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

Yes

No

The Sigurd to Red Butte Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Offsite Mitigation and Habitat Improvement Project (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) (SRB GRSG Mitigation Project) was prepared to analyze the effects of conducting vegetation treatments in an area that includes 20,684 acres of BLM-administered lands. The Upper Long Hollow Project Area is almost wholly contained within the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project area.

Following the analysis, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and a Proposed Decision for the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project was issued to the interested public. The Proposed Decision was issued for the 15-day protest and 30-day appeal period and became final in October 2013. The Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment Project is not a change from the Proposed Action identified in DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA. A variety of Mechanical and Manual Treatments (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Appendix 2) were identified and analyzed in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA including the bull hog and lop and scatter treatment methods.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

Yes

No

The proposed vegetation treatment falls within the vegetation treatment methods that were analyzed in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Appendix 2). Environmental conditions and resource values have not changed since the completion of the EA/FONSI/Decision that was issued in September 2013.

The SRB GRSG Mitigation Project was posted on the Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENBB) in March 2013 to solicit input from the public. The ENBB was continuously updated throughout the environmental review process.

A reasonable range of alternatives were analyzed in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA.

Design features (refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Pg. 23 - 32) were identified to minimize impacts to resources within the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project area, including the design features that are specific to the Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment Project. The design features would be adhered to during project implementation. Incorporation of these design features would ensure conformance with the Utah GRSG ARMPA, which was approved in September 2015.

3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

Yes

___No

A variety of mechanical and manual treatments (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA – Pg. 11 - 12 and Appendix 2) were identified and analyzed in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA including the lop and scatter and bull hog treatment methods. The SRB GRSG Mitigation Project and the proposed Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment Project have been reviewed to ensure consistency with the Utah GRSG ARMPA.

The following monitoring data reports have been completed within the Upper Long Hollow project area.

- Adams Well Allotment Vegetation Monitoring Report – January 2015
- Adams Well Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment Summary – January 2015

Vegetative and wildlife monitoring data have been collected throughout the project area. It has been determined through the collection of vegetative monitoring data and Ecological Site Description (ESD) verification that pinyon pine and juniper are excessive (> 10-20% that is identified in the ESD) within the proposed bull hog treatment areas and that understory of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs is limited to non-existent. The excessive pinyon pine and juniper component and the limited understory of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs are not consistent with the ESD. It has also been determined that pinyon pine and juniper are excessive within the proposed lop and scatter treatment area. The excessive pinyon pine and juniper component may limit the understory of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs in the future if not managed in conformance with the ESD.

Monitoring data has been utilized in the project design. The BLM will leave islands within the project area to provide for adequate wildlife cover, protect raptor nests, cultural sites, etc...

Future monitoring data would be collected throughout the project area in accordance with DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA and EA-040-06-42.

Additional vegetative monitoring data has not been provided by sources outside the BLM.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species has been reviewed. In addition, an IPaC report was generated on August 15, 2016. Utah prairie dog is the only known threatened, endangered, or candidate species with potential to occur within the treatment area (Refer to project assessment, Special Status Species Potential Occurrence for Upper Long Hollow). GRSG were considered as a candidate for listing by FWS at the time of completion of the EA (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2010-0022-EA) in accordance with the 2010 determination that the greater sage-grouse was warranted for protection under the ESA but precluded because of higher priorities. FWS was ordered to resolve the GRSG's "candidate" designation by

September 30, 2015. The BLM and U.S. Forest Service completed their plan amendments in September, 2015, at which point FWS evaluated the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the GRSG and determined that protection for the GSG under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is no longer warranted and is withdrawn from the candidate species list (80 FR 59857). GRSG are currently managed as a BLM Sensitive Species (BLM 6840 manual) and in accordance with the BLM's plan amendments.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

Yes

No

As described in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA, the bull hog treatment method would be used in areas dominated by pinyon pine and juniper and lop and scatter would be used in sagebrush steppe where tree density is higher than described under the ESD for that site. As discussed, in portions of the area dominated by pinyon pine/juniper there is a diverse perennial grass, forb and shrub component; however, composition and production is limited. A diverse composition of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs are present throughout the majority of the understory within sagebrush steppe habitat. If these areas are treated, in the short-term it is expected that the inputs (i.e. seeding) to achieve the goals identified in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA would be lower than if the site conditions continue to decline and all of the perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs are lost. There are also areas within the treatment area where the understory of perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs is limited to non-existent. These areas would require more inputs (i.e. seeding) because of the deficiencies in the herbaceous understory. The vegetation treatments would be followed with a maintenance lop and scatter treatment within 2-5 years of completion of this project to remove pinyon/juniper starts.

Design features (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 – Pg. 23 - 32) were identified to minimize impacts to resources within the project area. Refer to Attachment 3, which identifies the design features that are specific to the Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment. The design features would be adhered to during project implementation.

Clearances as identified in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA including wildlife, archaeology, cadastral, noxious weeds, sensitive plants, etc, have been completed within the project area.

A native seed mix would be identified for the project area utilizing the appropriate ESD. If supplies of native seed are limited the use of species that would provide the greatest benefit for GRSG would be utilized (Refer to Appendix 4 – DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013).

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Do the existing NEPA documents analyze impacts related to the current proposed action at a level of specificity appropriate to the proposal (plan level, programmatic level, project level)?

Yes

No

The proposed treatment was analyzed in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 and Appendix 2). Environmental conditions and resource values have not changed since the completion of the EA/FONSI/Decision that was issued in September 2013.

The SRB GRSG Mitigation Project addressed the direct and indirect impacts to other resources based on the implementation of a variety of mechanical and manual treatments (Refer to DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013 and Appendix 2). The EA also included design features to minimize impacts to resources within the project area.

No other direct or indirect impacts have been identified at this time.

The following monitoring data reports have been completed within the Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment Project area.

- Adams Well Allotment Vegetation Monitoring Report – January 2015
- Adams Well Allotment Rangeland Health Assessment Summary – January 2015

6. Are the reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)?

Yes

No

The cumulative impacts analyzed in the SRB GRSG Mitigation Project EA are the same as those that would result from implementation of this action. No other cumulative impacts have been identified at this time.

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes

No

The previous action was posted on the ENBB in March 2013. The ENBB was continuously updated throughout the environmental review process. Throughout the NEPA process, at various milestones, updates were posted on the ENBB.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting analysis or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

NAME	TITLE	RESOURCE REPRESENTED
Dan Fletcher	Assistant Field Manager	Environmental Justice, Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds, Farmlands, Livestock Grazing, Vegetation, Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines, Socio-Economic
Richard Friese	Hydrologist	Air, Floodplains, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology, Soils, Water
Colby Peterson	Zone Forester	Woodland/Forestry
Sheri Whitfield	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife, TECS, Migratory Birds
Ed Ginouves	Mining Engineer	Minerals, Paleontology
Laurel Glidden	Archeologist	Cultural, Native American Religious Concerns
Michelle Campeau	Realty Specialist	Lands
Dave Jacobson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, Visual, ACEC, Wild and Scenic Rivers
Waymon Pepper	Safety Specialist	Wastes (solid or hazardous)
Melanie Mendenhall	Natural Resource Specialist	Fuels/Fire Management

F. Mitigation Measures:

Refer to Attachment 3, which lists the design features that apply to the Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment.

CONCLUSIONS

Future phases within the analysis area will provide treatment type and location information as it becomes available and additional NEPA compliance will be completed prior to implementation by completing a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) document. A copy of the DNA will be added to the administrative record to ensure records are kept throughout all phases of the project.

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that:

Plan Conformance:

- This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes the BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.
- This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

- The existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.
- The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.


Tyler D. Ashcroft
Acting Field Manager
Cedar City Field Office

8/16/16
Date

Attachments

- 1. Project Map**
- 2. Interdisciplinary Team Checklist**
- 3. Project Design Features**

Attachment 2

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM ANALYSIS RECORD CHECKLIST

Project Title: Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Project

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2016-0052-DNA

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Dan Fletcher

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

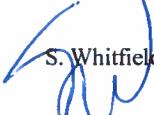
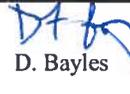
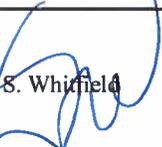
NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions

NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required

PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

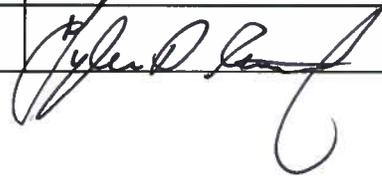
NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED (INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITIES APPENDIX 1 H-1790-1)				
NC	Air Quality	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	R. Friese	06/14/16
NC	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None present within the field office.	D. Jacobson	08/04/16
NC	Cultural Resources	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project.	Laurel Glidden	06/16/16
NC	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	R. Friese	06/14/16
NC	Environmental Justice	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	D. Fletcher	06/09/16
NC	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	R. Friese	06/14/16
NC	Fish and Wildlife Excluding USFW Designated Species	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design based on resource surveys.	S. Whitfield	08/15/2016
NC	Floodplains	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	R. Friese	06/14/16
NC	Fuels/Fire Management	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	M. Mendenhall	06/15/16
NC	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	The previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	E. Ginouves	6/10/16
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	R. Friese	06/14/16

Determination	Resource		Signature	
NC	Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	D. Fletcher 	06/09/16
NC	Lands/Access	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate	M. Campeau 	6/10/16
NC	Livestock Grazing	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	D. Fletcher 	06/09/16
NC	Migratory Birds	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design based on resource surveys.	S. Whitfield 	08/04/16
NC	Native American Religious Concerns	The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah was consulted on April 13, 2010 regarding this project and have no objections to moving forward.	L. Glidden 	06/16/16
NC	Paleontology	The previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate	E. Ginouves 	6/10/16
NC	Rangeland Health Standards	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	D. Fletcher 	06/09/16
NC	Recreation	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	D. Jacobson 	08/04/16
NC	Socio-Economics	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) adequate.	D. Fletcher 	06/09/16
NC	Soils	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	R. Friese 	06/14/16
NC	Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Sensitive Plant Species	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	D. Bayles 	6/16/16
NC	Threatened, Endangered, Candidate or Sensitive Animal Species	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. There are no TEC species within the treatment area. For BLM sensitive, refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design based on resource surveys.	S. Whitfield 	08/15/2016
NC	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2010-0022EA) reviewed by Randy Peterson is adequate.	Glenn Pepper 	6/10/2016
NC	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	R. Friese 	06/14/16
NC	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	A. Stephens 	06/14/16
NC	Wild and Scenic Rivers	None present within the field office.	D. Jacobson 	08/04/16

NC	Wilderness/WSA	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	D. Jacobson	08/04/16
NC	Woodland / Forestry	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	 C. Peterson	06/09/16
NC	Vegetation Excluding USFW Designated Species	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	 D. Fletcher	06/09/16
NC	Visual Resources	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	D. Jacobson	08/04/16
NC	Wild Horses and Burros	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate. Refer to Design Features that were identified in the EA and incorporate all appropriate Design Features into the project design.	 C. Hunter	06/14/16
NC	Lands With Wilderness Characteristics	Previous analysis (DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2013-0013-EA) is adequate.	D. Jacobson	08/04/16

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator		8/15/2016	
Authorized Officer		8/16/2016	

Attachment 3 – Design Features

General

- Avoid vegetation treatments during drought conditions.
- All necessary clearances would be completed prior to any ground disturbing activity or as required (wildlife, archaeology, cadastral, noxious weeds, etc.).
- BLM-authorized equipment and vehicles planned for use would be cleaned in a BLM approved location to minimize the spread of noxious weeds or other undesirable vegetation types.
- Project personnel would be responsible for ensuring trash and debris is properly disposed of and not left uncontained on-site overnight.
- Projects would be scheduled to minimize impacts to permittees by spreading vegetation treatments out over several years, based on pasture rotation schedules and grazing seasons. This would ensure rest for a minimum of two years.
- Vegetation treatments would be rested a minimum of two years; however, if the treatments, through monitoring data, are found to be unsuccessful the treatment area would continue to be rested or re-treated.
- Projects would be scheduled over a 10 year period, based on funding, equipment availability, and natural events.
- Areas within a specific Project Area where no treatment would occur would be identified on maps and with flagging within project units. These may include leave islands, individual trees, wildlife travel corridors, valid mining claim markers, cultural and BLM/State Sensitive Species areas.
- Existing vegetation/wildlife study locations would be located and protected so that markers and witness posts are not disturbed. This may result in placing temporary markers (ground level pegs) and pulling witness posts until treatments are completed.
- Prior to any project implementation, all corners and/or accessories of the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) that fall near to or within proposed treatment areas would be located and protected. PLSS corners include but are not limited to, original rock monuments, original wood corner post monuments; iron, stainless steel, or aluminum post monuments; bearing trees, line trees and reference mounds. Mineral Survey corners should also be located, and protected from any disturbances.
- Prior to conducting habitat projects BLM would inspect the site, project files, case records, and master title plats to determine if any existing facilities may be affected by the project. If a facility might be affected, the right-of-way holder or other owner would be notified prior to starting the project and appropriate precautions for the protection of facilities would be taken. BLM would make Blue Stake location requests if needed.
- Once areas are treated they may be maintained (for 10 years) in the future based on management goals, using approved management tools. This would prolong the life of the treatments and protect the investment made by BLM and the

contributing partners. Maintenance of vegetation treatments would be subject to additional NEPA review.

Cultural Resources

- An intensive cultural resource survey would be conducted within all Project Areas and determinations of eligibility and effect would be made by BLM Archaeologists in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office.
- All cultural resource sites identified within the Project Area that are determined to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places would be appropriately marked and avoided by all project management activities and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act would occur.
- If it is determined that not treating the vegetation on specific eligible sites may increase erosion or promote illegal collection, these sites may be treated. Treatments within the boundaries of eligible sites would need to avoid altering the characteristics that make these sites eligible. The State Historic Preservation Office would be consulted before any eligible sites are treated.
- For all proposed treatments American Indian Consultation would occur at the earliest stage possible. Procedures for American Indian consultation and consultation with interested parties in the Section 106 process would follow the regulations defined in 36 CFR 800.

Soils

- Limit mechanical treatments to slopes which are 25-30 percent or less.
- Mechanical equipment would generally be operated “on the contours” and during dry or frozen conditions to eliminate soil erosion, particularly rills, down the fall line of the slope.

Woodland and Forest

- Woodland and forest inventories would be completed as part of the planning tools in preparation for management actions. It may be desirable to complete more in-depth inventories for high-valued habitats and special sites.
- Silvicultural input and/or prescriptions would be prepared as a part of project design for management actions in woodland components.
- Efforts would be made to provide for product utilization in conjunction with or prior to fuels reduction and vegetation modification treatments where there may be used for the woodland/forest products.
- Where pinyon pine trees are to be removed and 100% tree removal is not required to achieve project objectives, leave quality pinyon pine for the production of pine nuts and other amenity values, including wildlife habitat. Thinning guidelines provided in “Preliminary Thinning Guidelines Using Stand Density Index for the Maintenance of Uneven-aged Pinyon-Juniper Ecosystems” (Appendix 5) may be used to achieve various resource management goals.

- Avoid 100% removal of pinyon pine and juniper trees where stands are composed of more than incidental amounts of trees in excess of 2 centuries in age. These are likely persistent pinyon pine and juniper sites and understory species on these sites would be unlikely to respond favorably.
- Where pinyon-juniper stands are to be thinned, retain uneven-aged conditions in after-treatment stands.

Noxious Weeds

- To eliminate the spread of noxious and invasive weeds, equipment and vehicles would be cleaned at a local car wash or other acceptable facility prior to travelling to the Project Area. Cleaning would concentrate on tires and tracks and the undercarriage, including axles, frame cross members, mufflers, converters, running boards, etc.
- Project sites would be field inventoried prior to treatment as determined necessary by the assigned specialist.
- Treatments proposed for areas without weeds would be given priority for treatment over areas with uncontrolled weeds.
- If noxious weeds are found to exist on a Project Area, they would be flagged for avoidance or controlled prior to treatment. Noxious weed treatments would be initiated as needed prior to project implementation if it is determined that planned ground disturbing activities would contribute to the establishment or expansion of noxious weed populations in the Project Area. Any necessary weed treatments would be in accordance with procedures and methods approved for the field office.
- Treated areas would be monitored for noxious weeds during the spring and summer, especially during the first and second year following treatment. Noxious weeds would be controlled when detected.
- When ground disturbing projects require seeding, seeding would be completed as soon as is reasonable (i.e. the fall following disturbance).
- Seed used would be certified weed free.
- Any mulches or ground cover used for reclamation or rehabilitation would be certified weed free.
- To reduce or eliminate invasion by noxious weeds, vegetation treatments planned where there is a high probability that noxious weeds would be encountered or introduced, would include a seeding plan, which is specifically designed to out-compete noxious weed seedlings.

Wildlife

General

- Appropriate speed limits would be adhered to by all project personnel on main county roads. Speed limits on all other roads would be set at 25 mph to minimize vehicle collisions with wildlife.
- A wildlife site clearances for U.S. Fish and Wildlife listed (threatened, endangered, and candidate) species and BLM sensitive species would be completed prior to authorization of any ground disturbing activities. Clearances would be completed by a BLM wildlife biologist. Design Features identified in

this section would be incorporated for biological resources to avoid and/or minimize disturbance to BLM Special Status Species.

Migratory Birds and Raptors

- Any raptor nest found within a treatment area would be protected and managed according to Best Management Practices for Raptors and Their Associated Habitats in Utah (BLM, August 2006), Utah Field Office Guidelines for Raptor Protection from Human and Land Use Disturbances (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Field Office, Salt Lake City, Jan. 2002) or in accordance with the most current policy in place at the time of treatments.
- Minimize vegetation treatments during the migratory bird nesting season from April 1st – July 15th to protect migratory bird breeding and nesting. If vegetation treatments during the nesting season cannot be avoided, then a qualified biologist should conduct nest searches to locate active nests. Active nests, as indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or presence of an adult on a nest, would be buffered with a minimum 100 foot buffer or in accordance with the species for which protection is needed.

Big Game

- Minimize vegetation treatment within crucial mule deer habitat to avoid critical life stages:
 - Crucial winter habitat: December 1st –April 1st.
- Minimize vegetation treatment within crucial yearlong pronghorn habitat to avoid critical life stages:
 - Winter: snow conditions >9 inches
 - Parturition: April 15th –June 15th

Vegetation treatments would be conducted within big game habitat if it is determined that beneficial long-term impacts would outweigh the initial short-term negative impacts of doing the treatment during crucial seasons. Activities would be avoided in coordination with UDWR on a site-specific basis if vegetation treatments are 1) proposed in areas that are crucial to the function of big game during the time of treatment or 2) environmental conditions are such that conducting a vegetation treatment in that area would cause unnecessary harm to big game populations.

- Personnel implementing the project would be informed of big game hunting seasons within the Project Area. The hunting public would be notified of project activities through the local newspaper and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources regarding location and timing of project implementation.

Sage grouse

- Implement the most current UDWR Strategic Management Plan for Sage Grouse, the BLM National Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, Guidelines to Manage Sage Grouse Populations and Their Habitat (Connelly et. al., 2000) and recommendations from local sage grouse working groups to protect, maintain, enhance and restore greater sage grouse populations and habitat.

- Minimize vegetation treatment within 4 miles (or in accordance with the most current policy in place at the time of treatments) of greater sage grouse leks from March 15th – July 15th to protect breeding, nesting and brood-rearing.
- Minimize vegetation treatment within greater sage grouse winter habitat from November 15th – March 15th (or in accordance with the most current policy in place at the time of treatments).
- Sagebrush treatment areas would include native grasses and forbs preferred by greater sage grouse. Pursue a long-term objective to maintain resilient native plant communities. Choose native plant species outlined in ESDs, where available, to re-vegetate sites. If currently available supplies are limited, use the materials that provide the greatest benefit for Greater Sage-Grouse. Plan to follow-up initial treatments to supplement native species.

Pygmy rabbits

- Protect occupied pygmy rabbit habitat by placing a 100 meter buffer (or in accordance with the most current policy in place at the time of treatments) around burrow complexes and travel corridors to maintain connectivity.
- Within known pygmy rabbit habitat, treatments would focus on removing encroaching conifers through hand thinning or cutting, while retaining older age class sagebrush preferred by pygmy rabbits.
- Currently occupied, recently occupied, and most historical pygmy rabbit habitat would be managed for good to very good indicator ratings as described in the UDWR Ecological Integrity Table below for Pygmy Rabbits, or as close to these values as the site is capable of reaching.

Big sagebrush frequency	>75% of woody plants
Mean shrub height	>22 inches (56 cm)
Shrub cover	>36%
Mean sagebrush height	>3 feet (91 cm)
Sagebrush cover	>25%
Size of suitable habitat patches	>124 acres (50 ha)

Grazing Management

- Range Improvement Projects (fences, water developments, pipelines, corrals, cattle guards) would be identified, protected, and repaired as a result of any damage associated with treatment activities.
- Non-use agreements with the grazing permittee(s) in the allotment(s) where treatments are planned would be obtained prior to implementing vegetation projects. Non-use agreements may exceed two years if the treatments, through monitoring data, are found to be unsuccessful and re-treatment would need to occur.
- Vegetation treatments would be rested from cattle grazing for a minimum of two years to determine success towards meeting management objectives. Vegetative monitoring data would be collected in accordance with approved BLM Technical References and Handbooks. If Key Management Areas do not already exist

within the treatment areas they would be established. Monitoring methodology including nested frequency, point cover, line intercept, etc. may be used to determine the success of the treatment. It is expected that some of the Key Management Areas that are established in association with implemented projects may be adopted for long-term monitoring.